

as associate vice chancellor for academic programs for the Florida Board of Regents. From there he was recruited to start the Florida Education Fund, a program designed to help African-Americans earn doctorates and law degrees. During his 17 years leading the Fund to new heights, Ike helped thousands of young people on their path to higher education.

When Ike was not working long hours at the Fund, he was devoting his energies to a host of other civic boards and committees. He served on the Advisory Committee on the Education of Blacks in Florida and as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Tampa Housing Authority. As the first African-American chairman of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Ike was responsible for making the board more representative of our diverse business community and focusing business and community leaders on the virtues of educating our young people.

In 1999, Ike was diagnosed with acute leukemia. Ike faced his illness with the same courage and positive attitude that he applied to all other facets of his life. Through chemotherapy and multiple transplants, Ike fought to the end, and he never stopped giving back to his community.

I consider it the highest honor, privilege and joy to have called Ike Tribble my dear friend and a mentor. Ike's passion and commitment to improving the lives of those around him was unsurpassed. Like so many touched by Ike, I will forever be inspired by Ike's compelling example, his wisdom and his zest for life.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, which so greatly benefitted from Ike's life work, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the Tribble family.

THE HISPANIC RESOURCE CENTER
IN THE CITY OF KENNER, LOUISIANA

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, today the City of Kenner crowns its celebration of June as Hispanic Heritage Month with the grand opening of its Hispanic Resource Center, the first of its kind in Louisiana. I am honored to recognize this landmark event in my district.

The Hispanic Resource Center will provide valuable services ranging from citizenship courses and homebuyers' training to computer tutorials and classes in English as a Second Language. In addition to offering specific programs that address real needs, the Center will serve as a facilitator to put Hispanic residents in touch with local agencies and organizations that can help with legal advice, health care, and other concerns.

I would like to congratulate Mayor Louis Congemi and the members of the Kenner City Council for their role in creating this important institution. Mayor Congemi is to be commended for his leadership in guiding the development of the Resource Center from initial idea to grand opening.

The Hispanic Resource Center proclaims and symbolizes the vitality of the Hispanic community in Kenner. I am confident that the Center will make a meaningful difference in the lives of many who hope in America's

promise and pursue the American dream. I am pleased to extend my best wishes to all of those involved in the work of the Hispanic Resource Center upon this happy occasion.

HONORING SUSAN BOOTH FOR HER
OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community, Susan Booth, as she is honored by the Devon Rotary and named a Paul Harris Fellow. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition was created in memory of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary as a way to show appreciation for contributions to the Foundation's charitable and educational program. Every Paul Harris Fellow receives a pin, medallion and a certificate when he or she becomes a Fellow, identifying the recipient as an advocate of the Foundation's goals of world peace and international understanding. The commitment and dedication that Susan has demonstrated is indeed a reflection of all that the Rotary stands for. It is wonderful to see her work so proudly recognized by her community.

Founder of the Archway Foundation, Susan has spent nearly fifteen years collecting donations to feed and clothe homeless children in Romania. Inspired by a television program about Romanian orphans abandoned when communism collapsed, Susan, a railroad conductor on a commuter train between Connecticut and New York's Grand Central Station, switched to night shifts so that she could earn a master's degree in Social Work. Upon completing her degree, Susan went to Bucharest on a week's vacation in search of these Romanian orphans who were living in sewers and abandoned buildings. With only a short list of contacts, Susan was fortunate to find an individual who knew where to look. "In that sewer, I found my life's work," she has said. Indeed, she has dedicated countless hours to her mission.

Operating out of her own home and a post office box, Susan collects clothing and donations and has been awarded hundreds of thousands in charitable grants. Through her hard work and the generosity of her contributors, Archway has been able to purchase two small homes in Romania as well as employ several Romanians. One of the homes is used as a soup kitchen from which volunteers take food out to hundreds of homeless children every week and provides groceries to squatter families who take refuge in abandoned buildings.

It is not often that you find an individual with such dedication and commitment. Susan's good work has touched the lives of thousands of needy children. More importantly, she has inspired countless numbers of people to donate their time and energy to provide one of life's most precious gifts—hope.

I am proud to stand today to join the Devon Rotary and the many family and friends who have gathered this evening in extending my sincere thanks and heart-felt congratulations

to Susan Booth as she is named a Paul Harris Fellow. Yours is a legacy that is sure to continue to inspire generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. On June 23, 2003, I was absent from the Chamber as I attended my son's high school graduation. During that time, I was not present to vote on rollcall votes 297, 298, 299, and 300. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 297–300.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
CHARLOTTE LESSER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Speaker, in the course of my career as a public official I have been privileged to work with some truly remarkable people—often unsung heroes who contribute every day, unselfishly and unwaveringly, to the health and well-being of our communities. One such person is my friend and constituent Charlotte Lesser, and I rise today on the occasion of her retirement as Director of Health Education at the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) to commend her for her many achievements and contributions.

For 10 years, Charlotte Lesser has successfully spearheaded BCHD efforts to provide critical assistance to South Bay citizens in need. Under her leadership, BCHD has developed organizations and services that promote health education activities and fitness awareness for the residents of Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach.

And as is the case with so many local leaders, Ms. Lesser volunteered her time to strengthen South Bay communities through her involvement with the South Bay Family Healthcare Center, the South Bay Youth Project, the Wellness Community, and the South Bay Coalition for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth.

In addition to her work as a champion of local health care services, Charlotte Lesser chaired the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and founded and directed the Manhattan Beach Neighborhood Watch.

In recognition of her unwavering commitment to the community, in 1999, Charlotte Lesser was named Los Angeles County Woman of the Year. But Charlotte is also my trusted friend and has been a wonderful resource to my staff and me.

Mr. President, I join the community in thanking Charlotte Lesser for her years of service and accomplishment, for they are evidence of her dedication and boundless energy. Although she is retiring from BCHD, her achievements will not end there. I look forward to her upcoming appointment to the Los Angeles County Commission for Women. I know she will continue to be an active leader and community advocate.